

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, 1-3 and 15-20 are amended. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In particular, in claim 1 the term "such as" allegedly renders the claim indefinite, and in claims 15-20 the term "the tabs" allegedly lacks antecedent basis.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete the "such as" clause, and claims 15-20 have been amended to recite "tabs." Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

A. Barton

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,741,016 ("Barton"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Patent Office alleges that Barton teaches all of the features recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants submit that Barton does not teach or suggest a chuck having a body comprising, in its region covered by the nut, a peripheral set of teeth, and does not teach or suggest that the nut bears a locking mechanism intended to engage in the set of teeth of the body when the chuck is in the tightened position, as recited in claim 1.

A feature of the chuck recited in claim 1 is that the body comprises a peripheral set of teeth in its region covered by the nut, and that the nut itself includes a locking mechanism that engages with the peripheral teeth on the body to lock the chuck in a tightened position. Following is a brief synopsis of the locking system of the chuck recited in claim 1.

As recited in present claim 1, a sleeve is mounted on the body and collaborates with the nut. This nut rotates the body of the chuck. See page 6, lines 4-11 of the specification.

The nut bears a locking mechanism that engages in the teeth of the body when the chuck is in the tightened position. See page 6, line 31 through page 7, line 3 of the specification. The locking mechanism is associated with the nut so that it rotates with the nut. See page 7, lines 27-33 of the specification. Thus, the locking mechanism associated with the nut is engaged in the teeth of the body when the chuck is in a tightened position. When the tool is moved from the locked position to the unlocked position, the sleeve is turned and the locking means disengages from the teeth of the body. See page 10, lines 9-20 of the specification.

In other words, the chuck recited in claim 1 comprises a nut-bearing locking system that engages the teeth of the body when the chuck is in the tightened position. When the chuck is unlocked, the sleeve is rotated in an opposite direction and the locking means disengages from the teeth of the body.

Applicants submit that Barton does not teach or suggest a chuck having either (1) a body with a set of teeth, or (2) a nut bearing a locking mechanism, as required in claim 1.

Barton teaches a chuck having a nut 60 that includes threads for mating with the threads on the jaws, whereby when the nut is rotated with respect to the body, the jaws will be advanced or retracted, locking or unlocking the chuck. See column 5, lines 9-21 of Barton. No locking system is associated with the nut. Instead, the chuck includes a pawl member 80 that is configured and disposed on a pawl holder 85 such that when the jaws of the chuck are desirably gripping the shank of the tool, the pawl member locks into a ratchet wheel portion located on nut retainer member 64. See column 6, lines 9-10 of Barton. Upon engagement with this ratchet wheel portion, the pawl and the sleeve member become constrained against rotation with respect to the body member. See column 6, lines 26-38 of Barton.

Barton clearly does not teach or suggest a chuck having a body that comprises, in its region covered by the nut, a peripheral set of teeth, and also does not teach or suggest that the nut bears a locking mechanism intended to engage a set of teeth of the body when the chuck

is in the tightened position, as required in claim 1. In Barton, the ratchet wheel portion, or teeth, is on nut retainer member 64, and not directly on the body. Further, the locking pawl 80 is on the pawl holder 85, and is not associated with the nut itself. Clearly, this locking system is completely different from the system defined in claim 1, and Barton thus clearly fails to anticipate or render obvious the recited chuck.

Thus, Applicants submit that Barton does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Barton does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1-3, 5-7 and 10-12. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

B. Nakamuro

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as alleged being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,390,481 ("Nakamuro"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Patent Office alleges that Nakamuro teaches or suggests all of the features recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants submit that Nakamuro does not teach or suggest a chuck having a body comprising, in its region covered by the nut, a peripheral set of teeth and a nut that bears a locking mechanism intended to engage a set of teeth of the body when the chuck is in the tightened position, as recited in claim 1.

As explained above, the chuck according to claim 1 includes a nut having a locking mechanism that engages a set of teeth located on the body of the chuck. Applicants submit that Nakamuro does not teach or suggest these features of the chuck recited in claim 1.

Nakamuro teaches that the nut 16 has threads for mating with the jaw threads. The nut is positioned about the body and engages with the jaw threads so that when the nut is rotated with respect to the body, the jaws are advanced or retracted depending on the nut's rotational direction. See column 3, lines 58-62 of Nakamuro.

In Nakamuro, the body does not bear peripheral teeth with which a locking mechanism engages in locking the chuck when tightened. Rather, the teeth are located on an outer race 78. See column 4, lines 16-23 of Nakamuro. These teeth are thus located on a side of the nut 16 opposite the location of the body. This is thus completely opposite of the chuck of claim 1. Further, the pawls that engage the teeth in locking the chuck are located on the inner race. See column 4, lines 3-15 of Nakamuro. Locking is achieved by the force pushing the nut and inner race together to create a frictional lock between these two components. See column 5, lines 37-39 of Nakamuro.

The locking mechanism taught by Nakamuro is thus much more complicated and includes many more parts. For example, the locking mechanism is designed to create audible clicking sounds as the chuck closes. See column 4, lines 24-30 and column 5, lines 57-64 of Nakamuro. This is quite different from the chuck of claim 1. Modification of the Nakamuro chuck in a manner required to derive the chuck of claim 1 would destroy this required audible clicking in Nakamuro, and thus would not have been done by a practitioner in the art.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Nakamuro does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1-8 and 10-11. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

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